

SENATE—Tuesday, October 23, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.—Proverbs 3:5-6.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, You only ask from us what You generally and generously offer to give to us. You initiate this conversation we call prayer because You want to bless us with exactly what we will need to live faithful, confident, productive, joyous lives today. You are for us and not against us. Help us to live the hours of today knowing You are beside, are on our side, and offer us unlimited strength and courage besides. You will provide us insight and inspiration to confront and solve the problems we face. You will give us peace when our hearts are distressed by the turbulence of our times. You will comfort us when we are afraid and need Your peace. You will make us overcomers when we feel overwhelmed. In response we relinquish our imagined control over people and circumstances. We thank You for the power of faith that we feel surging into our minds and hearts. We trust in You, dear God, for You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2506, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related pro-

grams for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1564

Mr. REID. I understand S. 1564 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1564) to convey lands to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas Research Foundation for a research park and technology center.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings. I understand it has been read a second time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection to further proceedings having been made, the bill will go on the calendar of general orders.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to vote at 10 o'clock this morning on cloture on the motion to proceed to foreign operations appropriations. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today for the weekly party conferences.

Because of Senators not being able to come to their offices today, I want to make an announcement that tomorrow morning we are going to have our weekly prayer breakfast in S-115. The breakfast will be led by Imam Yusuf Saleem, who is the resident Imam of Mas Jid Muhammad and the National Education Director for the Muslim American Society. Also, he is going to offer the prayer here tomorrow morning to open our Senate.

Mr. President, as I indicated, we are going to vote at 10 o'clock on a motion to proceed to this most important piece of legislation. This is now the third week the legislation has been held up. The filibusters for this bill alone have been more than 2 weeks. It is very important legislation dealing with issues about which the country must be concerned, especially with all that is going on in the world.

I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle who think they will get some advantage as a result of this filibuster in relation to judges, we are going to go ahead and process these. Senator LEAHY is fully aware of the need to approve judges. For example, at 2:15 today, if the minority has no objection, we will vote on four district court judges, Federal district court judges.

We are moving along as quickly as possible. I don't think it takes a rocket scientist, for lack of a better descrip-

tion, to understand that Senator LEAHY and the Judiciary Committee have been working under some tremendous constraints. First of all, after September 11 several weeks were spent coming up with legislation dealing with antiterrorism. It goes without saying that last week, in spite of all the difficulties involved, Senator LEAHY held, back here, an emergency markup in the President's Room. Then later in the day he held a meeting to have a hearing on various judges. It was held in S-128.

If Senator LEAHY were in some way trying to avoid having judges approved and holding hearings, he has every excuse in the world, I think. But instead of doing that, he prevailed upon the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the Presiding Officer today, to use the appropriations room to do these hearings.

So I think there may be more to this—this is my personal belief—than simply judges. It seems to me perhaps there is some effort to not have any more appropriations bills; that there may be some effort to have a big bill, an omnibus bill that the President would try to work on with the leadership—whatever that means—on occasion.

I hope the Presiding Officer—I know I will—will keep a close eye on this. We should be very careful. We have had experiences in the past where these large bills were not good for the country. They are not good for my State. They are not good for the country.

As I say, I think there may be more to this than simply judges because Senator LEAHY is moving judges as quickly as we can, more quickly than the times really allow. So I hope the people on the other side allow us to go forward on this bill. We have other important appropriations bills we should be doing—Agriculture, to mention just one.

Is there going to be an effort by the minority to hold up the Defense appropriations bill, or do they want a big lump of appropriations matters sent to the President in one form?

I hope we will be allowed to take up this bill. This is an extremely important measure to assist our war-related efforts. The President just returned from China where he met with leaders of 21 different nations where he talked to them about things that are needed to help them.

I traveled with Senator Simon and others to Uzbekistan a number of years ago. We were taken to the Aral Sea—a sea that dried up as a result of very bad practices by the former Soviet Union.